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SCHOOLMASTERS BILL.

Edinburgh, 23d March 1784.

AS the Pariſh Schoolmaſters, in ſeveral late advertiſements, have been blamed for applying to Parliament to augment their Salaries, without previouſly conſulting the Landed Intereſt, they think it neceſſary to inform the Public, That, in conſequence of advertiſements in the News-papers, inſerted by the Schoolmaſters of Brechin and St Andrews, expreſsly mentioning their intentions, a general meeting was held at Edinburgh, on the 23d of May 1782, of Delegates from the Pariſh Schoolmaſters of Thirty-two Preſbyteries:—At which it was reſolved, 'That, as a previous ſtep for carrying their intended ſcheme into execution, the 'ſeveral eſtabliſhed Schoolmaſters ſhould adviſe with, and uſe every endeavour to 'obtain the conſent of the Heretors within their reſpective bounds.' Two printed copies of the Minutes of this Meeting were ſent to the Schoolmaſters of every Preſbytery in Scotland, with written inſtructions to thoſe who had ſent no Delegates, to obey its reſolutions.—At a ſubſequent General Meeting, on the 19th of September 1782, at which Delegates from the Schoolmaſters of thirty-two Preſbyteries attended, and letters of concurrence from thoſe of ſeven more were produced, it was reſolved,

'That as the Meeting is convinced, from the Reports given in, that the ſenti-'ments of thoſe Heretors who have been conſulted, are, in general, favourable to 'the propoſed Scheme, farther ſteps ſhall be taken for bringing it to maturity; 'and that ſuch Heretors and Burghs as have not been conſulted on this ſubject, 'ſhall be ſeverally conſulted, with all convenient ſpeed, in ſuch manner as prudence 'ſhall direct.' Two printed copies of the Minutes of this Meeting, were alſo ſent to the Schoolmaſters of every Preſbytery, with inſtructions as before. Two printed copies of a Memorial, nearly, but not quite the ſame with that publiſhed in the News-papers, were at the ſame time tranſmitted to the Schoolmaſters of every Preſbytery, for their aſſiſtance, in further application to Heretors and Town-Councils.—A third General Meeting was held on the 18th September laſt, at which the Schoolmaſters of twenty-ſeven Preſbyteries were repreſented by their Delegates, and thoſe of nine more ſent letters of concurrence; the Minutes whereof bear, 'That the Meeting having conſidered the Reports given in this day, concerning 'the applications already made to Heretors and Royal Burghs, unanimouſly re-'ſolved to proſecute their Scheme, and apply to Parliament next Seſſion.' Beſides the general meetings and letters of concurrence before mentioned, many letters have been received, bearing, that the Heretors have been conſulted, and were favourable. About thirty years ago, this Scheme was in agitation: the Heretors were likewiſe then conſulted, and intimation repeatedly given in the Scots Magazine, of the intentions of the Schoolmaſters; and declarations publicly made, that if the Landed Intereſt appeared againſt it, it ſhould be immediately dropped: But no oppoſition ever appeared. In the year 1762, it was before the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Theſe proceedings ſhow, that it was by no means the intention of the Schoolmaſters, to take any ſtep againſt the ſenſe of the Landed Intereſt; and they have already repeatedly declared, that they never preſumed to dictate, but would, with all humility and thankfulneſs, accept of whatever relief the Landed Intereſt, and their Repreſentatives in Parliament, ſhall think their diſtreſſed ſituation requires.

N. B. At a Meeting of the Scots Members on the 23d ult. the parts of the Bill which ſeem to have given the greateſt offence, were denied.